Holy Apostles file

HOLY APOSTLES AND THE MEDIATOR
CHAPEL OF THE HOLY COMMUNION
PHILADELPHIA, PA.

To: Committee to Select a Rector and the Vestry.

From: Anthony S. Codding, Chairman,
Survey Subcommittee.

Date: November 16, 1974

The Survey Subcommittee of the Committee to Select a Rector has completed its work, represented by the attached Parish Profile Survey Report. It is recommended that distribution of the Report be accomplished by insertion in leaflets on a forthcoming Sunday.

Appreciation is expressed to Edna Carroll, Vera Johnson, Ena Christmas, Gladys Bell, Grace Duffy, Reed Mullikin, Sherida Gillison, Walter Livingston, Sally Codding, and John Peoples for assistance provided in drafting the questionnaire and doing the computations for the report.

Parish Profile Survey Report

November, 1974

Holy Apostles and the Mediator
Chapel of the Holy Communion
Philadelphia, Pa.

Introduction

A survey of the parish was conducted during the period September 25 to November 5, 1974. The survey method used consisted of a questionnaire mailed with a return envelope to all parishioners of record for Holy Apostles and the Mediator (H.A.& M.) and the Chapel (H.C.). As one of the first steps in the selection process, the questionnaire was designed by a subcommittee of the Committee to Select a Rector. Surveys from other parishes were obtained and distributed to all Committee members for suggestions. These suggestions were then used to draft the version sent to parish members, with a request that the completed questionnaires be returned unsigned.

Of the 304 questionnaires sent to H.A.& M. members, 69 were returned by 51 females and 18 males for a 23% return. Of 165 questionnaires sent to H.C. members, 22 were returned by 15 females and 7 males for a 13% return. The grand total for H.A.& M. and H.C. was 91 questionnaires returned out of 469 sent or 19%. For the purposes of this survey, such a return is generally considered to be adequate.

Two observations should be made concerning the 304 questionnaires sent to H.A.& M. members and the number returned. First, there were indications in the returns that the H.A.& M. rolls may contain the names of people who have moved out of the parish without notifying the church or who are deceased. Second, the return of 69 questionnaires from H.A.& M. members compares favorably with the number of people (85) who have made a pledge for 1974.

Information About "Us"

In terms of the ages of respondents, for both H.A.& M. and H.C. 40 people (51%) are between the ages 41-65, 24 people (31%) are 65 or older, and 14 people (18%) are 40 or younger. Seventy-one (79%) of the respondents said they did not have children under twelve years of age and 19 (21%) said they did; 81 people (90%) said they did not have children between 13-18 years of age and 9 (10%) indicated they did. In this data, and that which follows, the total replies to questions do not equal the number of questionnaires returned because some respondents did not answer every question.

The following table shows the length of time respondents said they attended H.A.& M. and H.C.

	H.A.& M.	H.C.	Total	%
1 yr. or less	2	-	2	2
1-2 years	2	2	4	5
2-6 years	10	-	10	11
Over 6 years	54	19	73	82

Eighty-two (82) people said they were communicants in the Episcopal Church and 4 said they were not. Respondents indicated attendance at services as follows:

	H.A.& M.	H.C.	Total	%
Once a week	31	17	48	55
2-3 times/month	20	2	22	26
once a month	3	1	4	5
few times/year	10	2	12	14

The following figures show how people responded when asked if they participated in parish activities, other than attending Sunday services:

	H.A.& M.	H.C.	Total	%
Yes	34	13	47	53
No	33	8	41	47

Out of nine parish activities listed, the following six items received a response worth noting:

	H.A.& M.	H.C.	Total	%
Altar Guild	8	4	12	15
Church School Teacher	8	2	10	12.5
E.C.W.	18	7	25	31
Choir	5	3	8	10
Usher	6	4	10	12.5
Vestry	12	3	15	19

Layreader, Scout Programs, and Acolytes received no more than two responses each.

When asked to indicate with whom people felt free to discuss parish problems, respondents replied as follows:

	H.A.& M.	H.C.	Total	%
Rector	39	15	54	28
Wardens	32	12	44	23
Vestry	27	11	38	19
Other parish members	36	14	50	26
None of the above	8	1	9	4

Preferred Characteristics of a Rector

Parishioners were asked to grade each of twelve characteristics in terms of whether the items were Very Important, Important, Somewhat Important, or Not Very Important. After all the responses were weighted, the following six items, in priority order, received the highest scores:

	H.A.& M. Rank	H.C. Rank	Total Rank
The Rector should be adaptable	2	1	1
He should provide strong leadership for the Vestry.	1	3	2
He should be available to help with personal problems.	2	2	3
Personal involvement in parish group and committee activities.	4	4	4
Have a flexible attitude toward social issues.	5	7	5
Train laity in performing the tasks of running the parish.	6	6	6

Respondents were asked to select their first five choices, in order of priority, from a list of ten skills that would be desirable in a Rector. After the responses were weighted, the following skills received the highest scores:

	H.A.& M. Rank	H.C. Rank	Total Rank
Ability to work with adults of all ages.	1	2	1
Leadership.	2	1	2
Good preacher.	3	3	3
Relates to youth.	4	7	4
Good counselor.	5	10	5

The responses to the question about the preferred age range of a Rector were weighted, resulting in the following scores:

	H.A.& M.	H.C.	Total
Under 35	23	9	32
35-50	118	35	153
Over 50	30	11	41
Doesn't matter	32	5	37

Opinion About Worship

Parishioners were asked to select their first and second choice from four aspects of worship: Sermon, Liturgy Prayers, and Hymns and music. For both H.A.& M. and H.C., first choice was the Sermon and second choice was Liturgy (form and language of services).

Most respondents (43) felt that the services in the past few years have been "About right." Thirty (30) people, almost equally divided, indicated that the services have been either "Too High" or "Too Low." Preferences expressed for type of service were as follows:

	H.A.& M.	H.C.	Total	%
Book of Common Prayer	45	18	63	70
New Liturgy (Green Book)	11	2	13	15
Doesn't matter	11	2	13	15

Conclusions

As indicated by the sample responding to the questionnaire, a majority of the people in the parish is over the age of 40; only 14 people (18%) said they were 40 or younger while 64 respondents (82%) said they were over 40 years of age. The length of time that parishioners have been attending either H.A.& M. or H.C. is consistant with the age characteristics; 83 respondents have been attending for two years or more and only 6 people said they have been attending two years or less. Very few new people appear to be coming into the parish. The per cent of people (53%) who participate in parish activities, other than attending Sunday services, is good but the number (47) is not large, given the reported size of the parish. Significantly for H.A.& M., almost as many people said they did not participate (33) as those who said they did (34). The 33 non-participants might represent substantial untapped resources, but given the number of shut-ins and the people who do not live near H.A.& M., this may not be the case. Considering that 66 females (73%) and only 25 males (27%) returned questionnaires, it is not surprising that more people (25) are involved in E.C.W. activities than any other; a high proportion of involved parish members is female.

If the sample of respondents is representative, the parish as a whole (70%) prefers traditional forms of worship. Most people feel that the type of service in the past few years has been "About right," neither too high nor too low, but somewhere in the middle. Various channels seem to exist for exchanging views on parish concerns.

The majority of respondents prefer a Rector between the ages of 35 and 50. Three traits clearly dominate the characteristics and skills respondents would like a Rector to have: adaptability, leadership, and an ability to relate to people of all ages and all situations. Significantly, and in spite of the relatively few young people in the parish, respondents felt relating to youth was an important skill a Rector should have. This indication could be interpreted as the desire to have a Rector who will build on the foundation that has been established by attracting a new generation to the parish.

Respectfully submitted,

Anthony S. Codding
Chairman, Subcommittee
Committee to Select a Rector